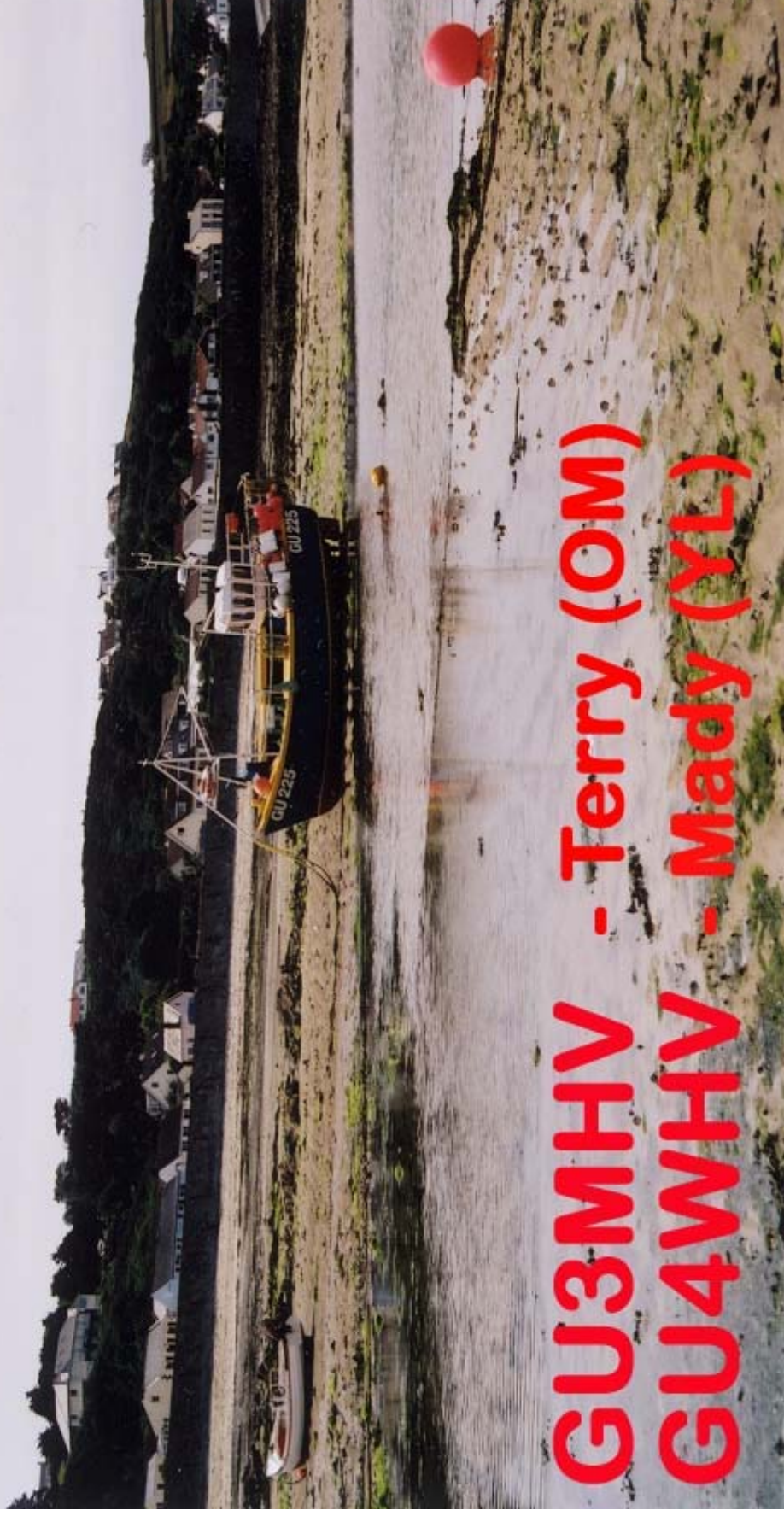




southern california dx club

SEPTEMBER 2002

**BAILIWICK OF
GUERNSEY
EU-114**



**GU3MHV - Terry (OM)
GU4WHV - Mady (YL)**

Soap Box— Words from our President

Here I am sitting in my hotel room at the Marriott at Rivercenter in Covington, KY, across the river from downtown Cincinnati. I'm here for a wedding tonight so I am missing the Summer Bash. I'm sure it was a huge success. My thanks to Wayne and Sharon Spring for being the host of this year bash.



There's still not a lot of DX out there but once in a while something interesting shows up. I worked Surinam on CW for a new mode and received my TY9M and EA6BH cards with 160 meter contacts. Still waiting for Ducie. I know a few of the people have received theirs, so I figure mine should be showing up soon.

Marilyn and I took a little tour around downtown and found a little lake where they have radio controlled boats. I saw one fellow with a Yaesu hat. It was K8MID. We chatted a little about the boats and of course DX. He only needs 2 more countries to have them all worked, Laccadives and Scarborough reef. I talked a little on the local repeaters, but really didn't have much free time.

Don, N6IC gave us a final report on the convention at the last meeting. It was the most successful convention we've ever had financially. I would like to personally thank Don, Carl WU6D, Cathy K6VC, and especially Herb KG6OG who did an outstanding job on the raffle prizes, and of course all of the volunteers who helped out this year. It will give the next group something to shoot for in 2003.

I wasn't planning on going, but Rich asked if I wanted to go down to the Convention in Escondido. After dropping Marilyn off at the airport at 6:00 AM, we headed south. The vendors were a little light, but did get to see a lot of familiar faces. Even ran into my card sorter, who handed me a stack of cards. A nice bunch of band fillers. Haven't had a chance to check them all into the computer yet. Maybe there's an all time new one in there.

Thanks to Bill, W1HIJ for his nice presentation at the August meeting. Makes you want to make plans to go to Bora Bora. Let Herb know if you have a program of that might be interesting for a club meeting.

See at the next meeting.

73,

de da Veep

Thanks to Bill – W1HIJ for his great presentation to the club at the August meeting. Bill provide us with a vary interesting and fascinating look at his DXpeditions to Bora Bora over the past couple of years, and highlights of his brief visit to Puerto Rico where he, K7JA, N6PEQ, NP4A and WP3C set a new record for Class 4A in Field Day and completed some 6500 QSOs in 24 hours.



Also, let me offer a big "thank you!" to Wayne – W6IRD and XYL Sharon for hosting this year's Summer Bash at their great QTH in Orange. We had a great turn out from the SCDXC, SDDXC, and SCCC. The weather was perfect, the food great, and I think everyone that came out for the Bash had a great time. It was really neat to see all of the contesters, DXers, ARRL folks, xyls' yl's friends, family, etc. come out for this annual event.

We should have some more great prizes for the September meeting, so be sure to tuck away some extra change, and buy lots of raffle tickets. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting! 73 and gud DXing till then!

73 for now de Herb / KG6OK –

Next General Meeting

The SCDXC meets the second Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be held September 12, 2002 at Syd Kronenthal Park in Culver City. The park is located 4 blocks west of La Cienega Blvd. and 2 blocks south of Washington Blvd. From the 10 Freeway exit La Cienega south to Washington Blvd. Turn right (west) 4 blocks to McManus Ave (it's La Cienega Ave to the right, McManus to the left). Turn left (south) 2 blocks to the Park. The street dead-ends at the parking lot. Please do not park in the school lot.

Herb sez we will have to wait till we are there to see who the presenter is.

See ya there!

Propagation January 2002

by Shel, W6EL

These predictions for the five prime HF bands show the times when propagation is expected to be best from Los Angeles to several locations that are expected to be active during the coming month.

Other times are possible, but with weaker signals or lower probability. Openings are not expected on bands that are not listed. A solar flux of 172, corresponding to a sunspot number of 130, and an average geomagnetic field are assumed.

Sunrise/sunset times are at the DX location. All times are UTC.

Good luck and good DX from Shel, W6EL.



3D2 Fiji - 9/6 to 9/11 - Beam 240 degrees

Sunrise/sunset (on 9/9) 1810/0556

80: 0800-1330.

40: 0600-1400.

20: 0400-1600.

15: 0130-0830, 1800-1830 and around 1500.

10: 1830-0600.

A5 Bhutan - 9/11 to 9/14 - Beam 333 degrees

Sunrise/sunset (on 9/13) 2348/1203

40: Around 1230.

20: 1000-1100 and 1330-1600. Long path around 0100.

10: 0100-0230.

LX Luxembourg - 9/21 to 9/28 - Beam 32 degrees

Sunrise/sunset (on 9/25) 0531/1723

80: 0330-0500.

40: 0130-0600.

20: 2300-1000.

15: 1430-2200.

10: 1630-2000.

9H Malta - 9/16 to 10/6 - Beam 37 degrees

Sunrise/sunset (on 9/26) 0457/1650

40: 0230-0500.

20: 0030-0630.

15: 1400-2400.

10: 1600-2030.





Bash 2002 Aug 25



tnx to
IRD





Dr. Seuss Explains WHY COMPUTERS SOMETIMES CRASH

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port, and the bus is interrupted at a very last resort, and the access of the memory makes your floppy disk abort, then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash, and the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash, and your data is corrupted cause the index doesn't

hash, then your situation's hopeless and your system's gonna crash!!

If the label on the cable on the table at your house says the network is connected to the button on your mouse, but your packets want to tunnel to another protocol, that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall, and your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss, so your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse; then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang, 'cuz sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy in the disk, and the macro code instructions cause unnecessary risk, then you'll have to flash the memory and you'll want to RAM your ROM. Quickly turn off the computer and be sure to tell your Mom!

WELL! That certainly clears things up.

Our DXpedition for 2002

Mady and Terry Langdon (KP3YL/W6 and W6/G3MHV)

Tents blown away in gale-force winds, crabs crawling over bare feet, mosquitoes swarming for their evening attacks, hazardous journeys between bobbing boats and rocky islands - all are familiar ingredients as DXpeditioners strive to put exotic prefixes on the air. Our DXpedition for 2002 was a little different. We spent 8 days on the delightful island of Guernsey, GU - staying in a luxurious small hotel, having superb meals in fine restaurants, using a rental car to explore this Lilliputian paradise and enjoying interesting conversations with the English-speaking locals.

We departed from Southampton airport under an overcast sky in mid-June on the 45 minutes flight to Guernsey. Luckily, no one weighed our hand luggage. We were carrying two complete stations - two Yaesu FT-757GX transceivers, two matching power supplies, two MFJ tuners, two Bencher keyers and a single microphone. We had already made arrangements to use the antennas of the Guernsey Amateur Radio Society and this turned out to be an excellent choice. We had at our disposal a TH6 at about 55 ft for 10/15/20 and a 40m dipole which, we subsequently discovered, worked well on 15 m cw. By the evening of the first day we were all set up with two stations on the air using our GU4WHV (Mady) and GU3MHV (Terry) call-signs.

The Guernsey club station is located in a single-story building in the grounds of the local hospital. There are no local neighbors and no TVI - in fact our nearest neighbors were the dairy cows in the adjacent field but they seemed oblivious to our presence.

During 8 days in GU we experienced wonderful weather and a combination of DXing and sight-seeing around the island. We enjoyed the beautiful coastline and driving along the narrow roads with high hedgerows on either side - there is a maximum speed limit of 35 mph throughout the island but it would be hard to exceed the limit on the narrow twisting roads. The radio was excellent. We quickly generated pile-ups whenever we came on the air and we ended the week with a cumulative total of more than 2700 QSOs split approximately equally between cw and SSB. We also worked 98 different DXCC countries and 95 of those countries called us in the pile-ups (the remaining 3 countries were called by us on the last evening in an unsuccessful bid to reach 100). Countries calling us in the pile-ups included FP, 3A, 7X, A71, YN and OY.

Another statistic. On the last day, returning the rental car to the airport, we checked our mileage. In a week of driv-



ing all over GU we had gone a grand total of 98 miles - similar to a round-trip daily commute in L.A. Our special thanks are extended to Phil, GU0SUP, and Keith, MU3EFB, for technical assistance and the very warm welcome.

(Ed note: Thanks to Mady and Terry for sharing their experience at GU this year.)

The Derby Scratched

Spotting Derby results will be published next month. The system was down for much of August thus corrupting the data. Sri

W6TG

Ken, W6TG, shares these great photos with us.

"Here are pictures of my station from the old days (1960's) and now. Also an old QSL I found from Minerva Reef from our old friend Don Miller, 1966.

The new station has a Force 12 antenna farm consisting of a 6el/20 meter, 3el/15 meter, and a 5el/10 meter rotatable dipole.

The antennas also include a 40 meter and homebrew 80 meter sloper.

Rig is FT1000D with a Henry Amp.

All in all the station works very well. I suppose that the QTH in Crestline helps too!



Ham Puzzle

By Milt, W6RJO

Answer to last months question

In the old transistor radios they inserted sheets of dielectric material in between the plates of the tuning capacitor. This easily raised the capacitance by more than an order of magnitude.

Recall, if the dielectric constant of the sheets is, say, 30, the capacity is increased 30 fold. So the little bitty 10 pf air variable becomes a 300 pf capacitor. Now they can get plenty of variable capacitance from a reversed biased diode whose capacitance is voltage tuned. A varactor diode and a voltage bias source varied by a tuning pot is all that is needed.



Now, this months puzzle.

Walk The Tower Up Yourself!

V.H.Ham picked up one end of his 60 foot tower and exclaimed, "Its not as heavy as I thought-it only weighs 200 lbs." Not too smart as he plants the tower bottom end and starts to walk it Up. "It's getting heavier and heavier - maybe I should call Skip" he says as he starts to back up, set the tower down, and make the call. If you are as tall as a Grizzly bear and with the musculature to match, you might be able to do it. It is easy to show that the tower gets heavier as you walk it up, reaching a maximum apparent weight when it is at a 45 degree angle. If you can get to 45 degrees, then it's all downhill from there, as it gets lighter and lighter until its vertical.

At 45 degrees, the force you must exert to hold up the tower is a maximum; given by the product of its length and weight divided by four times the height (usually shoulder height) at which you push at right angles to the tower.

(a) If your shoulder height is 5~ feet, and the tower height is 60 feet and weighs 200 pounds, how much force do you need?

(b) If your Grizzly bear friend is a ham who happens to also be walking up a like-tower, how much force does he need at 45 degrees? His shoulder height is 9 feet.

Retirement DXing:

The WA5VGI Experience

Part 3: A Real Tower

(Ed note: In part 3 Bill continues the saga of getting a REAL station on the air from his retirement home in Central California. In the background of this activity is the unsung heroine, Linda, Bill's XYL who probably has a story to tell also!)

Spring is always beautiful on the central coast of California. The native grasses which were brown in summer and fall now spring to life and the hillsides are covered in varied shades of green. Flowers bloom, animal life shakes off the dregs of winter and the DXer's mind seems to spring to life. It was the spring of 1998 and I was ready to put up a tower. The neighbors had decided that my mast-mounted Force-12 C-3 (20,17,15,12 and 10 meters) was no worse than an oversized TV antenna and what the heck I was a good neighbor to boot. But along with the planned antenna work I had also embarked on a massive deck building project (~2400 sq. ft) which was to consume both the summer and fall of 1998.

Move to 1999. The C-3 had worked well and with the old GAP DX-IV vertical guyed at 4 levels I had even managed to put 45 new countries into the 160 meter log. How wonderful it was to start each day with a cup of coffee, go down to the shack and turn on the amplifier(s) and start the hunt for a new country or band/mode/country. This was the year for getting up a real tower. Nothing in the way. Except for finishing a 5 foot high block wall in the back yard, another deck extension and a walkway.

Hard work has its payoff. In June I was ready. I placed an order to purchase a Tri-Ex LM-470E 72 foot motorized crankup tower. Because of our high winds I also procured a custom heavy duty base and planned on a hole for the tower foundation measuring 5'X5'X8".



On our ridgeline property (21 acres) there are two flat spots. One is where our home was built and the other is where the contractors placed the leach field for our septic system. Consulting a drawing of our septic field (when I was at city hall I had asked and paid for a set of drawings for our home) I noted an area approximately 120'X75' that was still flat and away from the leach field. Aside from being flat it was also a good area since if the tower ever came down in the elevated position it would still fall on our property and also not strike our home. With this information in hand I called a recommended contractor with a back hoe.

A week later a backhoe was at work on the west side of our house. Things progressed nicely until the hole was around 5 feet deep. At that depth the bucket came up out of the hole with damp coarse rock and some pieces of black plastic sheet. Bingo we had hit the edge of one of the leach field runs. Not the place one wants to place a tower foundation! Obviously the leach field drawing and the actual placement of the field were not the same. Not wanting to make an on the spot decision on where to put an alternate hole I

asked the backhoe operator if he could come back the next day. Fortunately he had no other jobs planned and said he would be back the next day in the afternoon.

The next day I was out early now trying to find a good location for another hole. Another 50 feet to the west of the original hole was a good looking location nestled between several large costal oaks. Here however the ground sloped at approximately 15 degrees but otherwise looked good. That afternoon digging began anew. Things again progressed well until the hole was around 5 feet in depth. This time I could hear the tangs on the bucket scraping rock. Repeated attempts by the backhoe operator were not successful in removing this obstacle. We had run into a rock that was completely solid along the entire base of the hole except for around 2 feet of the downhill side of the hole. Had we run into ZB2 I wondered silently? For structural purposes the hole had to be deeper but due to the proximity to the oak trees there was only one side of the hole we could expand digging on and that was the downhill side. Continuing with the digging the operator was now able to dig adjacent to the original hole another hole approximately 4'X6' and around 9 feet in depth. Step one was complete.

In early July I contacted Riggs Hohmann, WA6HR who does tower installations in our area and arranged with him to take care of the base installation, rebar assembly and pouring of the base. Staying on schedule Riggs completed all of the prep work and on 11 August the base was poured. Originally I had planned on using approxi-

mately 7.5 cu. yds. of concrete for the base. With the enlargement of the hole and cleanup we ended up pouring 11 cu. yds. of concrete (5.5 sack, 3/4 rock with stealth fiber).



At the end of September my tower was delivered by freight. In addition to the tower I had ordered a remote control unit for raising and lowering the tower and a raising/tilt-over fixture. I had already completed the run of hardline from the shack to the tower (270') along with the antenna relays, 110 VAC power line and rotor control cables. All were installed in Schedule 40 PVC pipe to keep away our local gophers. In addition the cable for the remote control unit was in place and the control box installed just inside my garage door.

It was a warm fall day in mid October when Riggs and I moved the new tower by trailer from the driveway out to the tower base. It took about an hour of wrestling with the tower but we finally got two of the tower and base mount holes aligned and two large bolts installed. Prior to raising the tower we installed the rotor (Yaesu G-1000SDX) antenna relay box (WX0B) and tower limit switches. With the use of the raising fixture we pulled up the tower and installed the first bolt in the remaining leg. Shortly thereafter all of the mounting bolts were installed and tightened. I connected the power and remote control unit cables to the motor and contactor

box and with a nervous finger hit the switch to raise the tower. Smoothly and steadily the tower went up until the upper limit switch was engaged. I stood back taking it all in. I called out to my XYL Linda to have a look and her exact words were "it's a thing of beauty" !! We put the tower through several cycles of raising and lowering to ensure all was operating safely and smoothly. Now for antenna installation.

Tom, N6BT (President of Force-12) had already partly assembled my EF-240S 2-el 40 meter beam and C-19XR tribander at

his shop and then delivered them to my home. Thus it only took another hour or so to finish assembly. Riggs blocked the tower and installed a gin pole borrowed from Larry, W7CB. A half hour later he had a 15 foot mast installed and was ready for the 40 meter beam. After installing some temporary mast climbing steps the 40 meter beam was in place. Shortly thereafter we hauled up the C-19XR and he mounted it under the 40 meter beam. Measurements with a MFJ SWR analyzer resulted in one adjustment to the 40 meter beam (set

for 7.015 MHz) and just one for the C-19XR tribander. It took another couple of hours to route the coax and control lines on the tower but when all was finished it had a nice professional look. Off to the shack for a final check. Everything worked perfectly.

The ensuing months took me to a new level of DXing. With the 40 meter beam I could work the long-path in the winter mornings and my country count on that band began to climb. With two tribanders I could listen quickly in two different directions or leave the C-19XR on 20 meters for example and listen with the C-3 on 17 or 12 meters (with an antenna tuner). Life was good. I didn't know at this time that I would expand the antenna system on the new tower in the near future. Nor did I know that a bomb was slowly ticking away in my new tower. New band countries and disaster were both racing towards July of 2001.

(to be continued)



Photos, QSLs and articles needed for our newsletter.

Who We Are

The SCDXC Newsletter is published monthly by the Southern California DX Club and is e-mailed to all club members.

Please notify the editor if you do not receive your newsletter, have a change of address, or have found an error.

Please direct all submissions to the editor.

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There is no charge for SCDXC members.

Commercial ads (limited to Ham Radio) are also accepted. Send Email for fees.

Email the text to K6EXO@arrl.net

Chuck asks —

Does anyone have any info on removing tobacco odors from equipment, books, QSL cards, etc? Thought someone may have some experience/success and would share the wisdom.

KB6V was an inveterate pipe smoker. The odors don't seem as offensive as cigarette smoke, but nonetheless are difficult to remove. I've scrubbed with soap & water, then left things outside to air out in the sun and wind, but that doesn't seem to help at all.

Is It For Real?

In this age of viruses and virus hoaxes, please visit the sites below to verify any warning you receive about a virus BEFORE you act on the warning.

Save this for future reference:

<http://www.mcafee.com/anti-virus/>
<http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/>
<http://www.f-secure.com/virus-info/>
<http://www.sophos.com/virusinfo/>
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